

Wetland Conservation Plan

Background

A discussion of the need for the Plan -

Established regulatory programs,
numerous mandates, local requirements,
voluntary programs,

but....

No Comprehensive Management

Goals

Controlled Use of the Wetland Resource while
Sustaining Important Wetlands and their
Functions

Target Wetland Restoration and Preservation

Incorporate Wetland Considerations into Other
Programs

Improve Non-regulatory Management

Improve Regulatory Programs

MDE Role

- Usually the Lead in Gathering Background Information
- Obtain Additional Information as Requested by Work Group
- Coordinate Meetings
- Incorporate Goals, Recommendations, Other Information into Written Wetland Conservation Plan
- Follow up on Scheduled Tasks
- Prepare Report on Progress

Work Group Role

- Represent Constituents - Share information with Others from Interest Area
- Review and Comment on Information
- Make Recommendations
- Share Knowledge and Expertise
- Consider Viewpoints of Others
- Develop Goals
- Try to Reach Consensus

In order to Accomplish these Goals, MDE and the Work Group Would:

- Recognize that Some Wetlands Will Be Lost - this is a tradeoff for increased protection of critical wetlands and restoration of key areas
- Work with Other Agencies and the Public to identify critical wetlands requiring extra protection-identify and implement protection measures
- Work with Other Public and Private Entities to Promote and Encourage Voluntary Restoration-identify shortcomings and perceptions that limit restoration and work toward solutions
- Identify Unnecessary Duplication
- Begin Identifying Improvements to Regulatory Process - Distinguish Between Real and Perceived Problems

For Non-Regulatory Programs, MDE and the Work Group will:

- Identify Areas of Voluntary Wetland Management - Actions beyond scope of regulatory programs, including restoration, preservation, education, other initiatives
- Identify Conflicts and Consistencies with other Initiatives
- Make Recommendations on how to Incorporate Wetlands into Other Programs-Smart Growth, Rural Legacy, Stream ReLeaf

Improvements to Regulatory Program

- Encourage and Work with Local Governments on Incorporating Wetland Permitting into Local Project Review and Planning
- Identify Areas of Conflict and Consistency with Other Regulatory Programs
- Recommend Changes to Process
- Recommend Changes to Regulations

Administrative Components

- MDE and Work Group Identify Short and Long-Term Tasks and Entity who will Implement Task. No Entity will be Assigned a Task without their Agreement
- A Schedule for Completing Tasks is Prepared and Included in the Plan
- A Schedule for Monitoring Completion of Tasks is Included in Plan
- Additional Information Needs Are Identified, if Appropriate

Finalizing Plan

- MDE Prepares Drafts for Work Group Review
- Work Group Agrees on a Final Version of Plan
- Plan Presented to Governor for Approval
- Official Plan is Approved
- Implementation Begins